Veterinary education has a history of over 100 years in Asia since first offered in 1910 in India. There is at least one veterinary school in each country within the FAVA system. In addition, there is a national accreditation system of veterinary schools in some countries; such as Indonesia, Japan, Korea, and Thailand. Veterinary schools in Hongkong, Singapore, Laos, Cambodia and Brunei have not been established yet. The Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA) was established in 1978 and is now recognized as a unified veterinary association serving the needs of the region. One of the FAVA missions is to develop strong regional cooperation in veterinary education for the advancement of the veterinary profession through the FAVA Strategy Plan 2010-2015. FAVA continues its efforts to unify the veterinary education of the veterinary schools among its member countries. The FAVA’s veterinary training program was started and supported by Japan Veterinary Medical Association (JVMA) in 1994. A total of 46 veterinarians from participating countries have been trained under this program. There has been a FAVA Congress held every two years. FAVA also acts as a working group coordinator on veterinary education. This promotes collaboration with the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS) and the South East Asia Veterinary School Associations (SEAVSA) encouraging the unification of veterinary education in the region and harmonization with global and regional trends.

FAVA-ASEAN collaboration is essential to prepare for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015. As ASEAN become one community, veterinary education should be ready for changes in many aspects. This need for preparedness is also reflected in the changing production and consumption trends in livestock products. FAVA facilitates academic collaboration and knowledge exchange among ASEAN veterinary schools to discover ways of addressing future challenges and to convey the importance of veterinary education in the AEC in the near future. FAVA welcomes the OIE involvement in veterinary education globally as a valuable support to the FAVA mission.

Keywords: Asia – ASEAN – FAVA – veterinary education – OIE.